

SITREP NO: 36 (REMOVAL)

Date: October 4, 1997
Subject: Westbank Asbestos
From: John Martin, OSC, U.S. EPA, Region 6, RPB (214/665-6748)
To: Director, Office of Emergency & Remedial Response
Charles A. Gazda, Chief, ERB, Region 6
State Contact: LDEQ

CERCLIS No: LAD985170711 (#Y6) **State Notification:** LDEQ, LDHH
Action Memo: 08/23/96 & 04/03/97 **Start Date:** 10/14/96
Response Authority: CERCLA, Removal Funded non-NPL
LAG No w/ USACE: DW96950233-01-0 **WAF No:** 96/01-COE33-Y600-V004

I. SITUATION

The Westbank Asbestos Site is located in the Westbank area of New Orleans consisting of the Jefferson Parish cities of Bridge City, Westwego, Marrero, Harvey and Gretna, and the Orleans Parish community of Algiers. These communities are in the vicinity of a former Johns-Manville plant that operated in Marrero. The plant reportedly gave away to local residents an asbestos-containing material (ACM) that was mixed with a cement-type filler material. The residents used this ACM to construct driveways, sidewalks, walkways, etc. around their homes. Twenty to 30 percent of the ACM locations are presently deteriorating to the extent of being friable asbestos, thereby threatening the public's health.

As of 11/04/97, ACM excavation has been completed at 956 sites with restoration completed at 920 sites. To date, investigations have been requested at 1655 sites, of which 1080 have been confirmed to have visible ACM. The remaining sites are currently under investigation or contain no visible ACM. Removal activities were completed at 21 sites during the week of 10/27/97 to 10/31/97.

II. ACTIVITIES

Removal and restoration activities at the WBA site have continued since SITREP 35 on 10/28/97. Weekly updates were faxed to local, parish, and state agencies to notify them where sites of removal and restoration were being conducted as well as those scheduled for work. During this period, the EPA continued to receive phone calls to the command post hotline from citizens to have their property investigated for possible ACM or questions concerning restoration. Door-to-door activities were conducted to investigate new potential sites, gather access agreements, and to answer the homeowners' questions about restoration. The EPA START continued to survey and provide a detailed sketch of each ACM site prior to removal. Also, signatures or verbal phone approvals were obtained from homeowners before the removal could proceed at their property and so that the homeowner has full knowledge of the replacement material. The more difficult of these sites being readied for excavation, OSC Windheim or Martin along with a USACE representative, have been coordinating with the homeowner throughout the process of addressing their property. After excavation has been completed at each site, confirmation soil samples were collected prior to restoration which proceeded after analytical results were received and the site cleared for restoration. All areas excavated received a geo-liner as a warning barrier or marker of our work for future references. Periodic air monitoring with hi-flow and lo-flow pumps was conducted at sites undergoing removal at selected locations throughout the Westbank area. Air monitoring results have revealed that no airborne asbestos fibers above the OSHA PEL have been detected in the ambient air during removal operations. However, we have continued to stress the importance of adequately wetting the entire excavation area including both the ACM pile and the previously excavated area.



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During the period of 10/27/97 to 10/31/97 regular removal activities continued as planned. For the START contractor; one sampling team of three people, a site access/marketing team of two people, a video documentation person, and a team leader organizing command post duties were used during the period.

During the week ending 10/31/97, removal activities were conducted in the communities of Westwego, Marrero, Bridge City, Harvey, and Gretna. Three excavation crews were used on 10/27/97 through 10/31/97. No removal activities were conducted on Saturday, 11/01/97. ACM removal activities were completed at 21 sites. Site restoration activities were completed at 35 sites. To date, approximately 34,698 cubic yards of ACM and contaminated soil have been excavated and disposed at the Kelvin Landfill in Avondale, Louisiana.

SITE SUMMARY

| <u>Excavations Started</u> | <u>Excavations Completed</u> | <u>Restorations Started</u> | <u>Restoration completed</u> |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 960 | 956 | 931 | 920 |

III. NEXT STEPS

We have begun planning for demobilization as we are nearing the end of proposed clean up activities. We are planning to have 1028 sites excavated by the Thanksgiving break. We will continue to process and prepare new sites for excavation as they are reported. It is projected that there will be 20 sites per week available for excavation through the first part of December, after which time all excavation crews will demobilize. However, we will only excavate as many properties as we can "ready" and completely restore before the Christmas holiday demobilization.

IV. COST INFORMATION (as of 11/04/97)

| | <u>Amount Obligated</u> | <u>Cost to Date</u> | <u>AM Ceiling*</u> |
|--------------|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| LAG (USACE) | \$ 13,688,000 | \$11,832,086** | \$21,000,000 |
| START | \$ 574,211 | \$ 401,788 | \$ 600,000 |
| Contingency | n/a | n/a | \$ 4,300,000 |
| TOTAL | \$ 12,574,211 | \$12,233,874 | \$25,900,000 |

**CTD of USACE's Rapid Response Contract with a D.O. amount of \$11,967,102
 USACE cost to project is 11% of Rapid's D.O. amount
 Percent of Rapid's D.O. Funds Remaining: 1%

START PM: Jeff Wright